AGENCY REQUEST FOR
A/E SELECTION COMMITTEE ACTION
October 2019

AGENCY: Department of Natural Resources

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LOCATION: Black River Falls Service Center, Black River Falls, Jackson County

PROJECT REQUEST: Request the services of a professional Architectural and Engineering (A/E) design firm to provide a preliminary design report, construction bid documents, and construction administration services to construct a Black River Falls Ranger Station and Fire Response unit at the Black River Falls Service Center.

PROJECT NUMBER: 19I2S

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:
This project will replace the Black River Falls Ranger Station with a replacement consolidated forest fire response unit station on the Black River Falls Service Center campus. The facility will include a 9-bay heated drive-thru for five heavy units, two Type 6 initial attack engines, two Type 8 initial attack engines, the Incident Command SUV, the IMT trailer, the SEAT base support trailer, equipment storage, and a shop area with workbench for light equipment and vehicle maintenance. The heated garage will also be used as an Incident Command Post (ICP) in the event of multiple or exceptionally large wildfires or disasters within the Black River Falls and Pray Fire Response Units (FRUs), and for incident training purposes. Jackson County Emergency Management also has plans to utilize the heated facility as a back-up Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in the event of a major incident within Jackson County. The replacement ranger station also includes an unheated bay drive-thru storage garage to store the station's fire equipment cache.

JUSTIFICATION:
The existing building (1779) was built in 1971 and does not adequately house equipment, as most of the fire response fleet is too large for the current facility. The building is only 50' wide, and the heavy units are approximately 50' long. When heavy units are parked in the building, there is insufficient space to walk around the heavy units without opening the overhead doors of the garage, which is very energy inefficient in colder weather. This also restricts access to service doors for emergency egress in the event of fire in the building. The stalls within the current facility are not drive-thru, so engine operators need to back the units into the building, which has caused significant damage to both the storage facility and engines due to the insufficient space. The small space also causes a slower response to emergency calls because vehicles need to be moved around to drive out the preferred vehicle to respond to an incident.

There are also concerns regarding staff safety and efficiency in the current building. The existing ranger station does not provide enough ventilation to allow for safe warm-up of vehicles and performance daily inspections. The inadequate ventilation allows diesel exhaust to fill the building during these activities, creating an unsafe and unhealthy air quality for staff. There is miscellaneous fire equipment, UTVs, and trailers stored on the floor between the heavy units due to lack of space, which creates safety hazards for staff performing maintenance and accessing the heavy units. The building also uses four furnaces, which are over 15-20 years old. These furnaces are inefficient and ineffective for heating the entire facility and need to be replaced.

The replacement facility will be designed to adequately house the heavy units and attack engines in a safe and response-ready condition. The drive-thru bays will allow fire staff to quickly and easily enter and exit the facility for fast incident response. The Department will see cost savings in the operations of the facility due to the energy efficiency and exhaust purge system in the heated portion of the building. This replacement

facility will properly store the equipment safely, and in a response-ready condition, which will aid in protecting department and public lands, and overall public safety.

PROJECT BUDGET:

Construction	
Design	
DFD Mgt.	
Contingency	
TOTAL	$2,187,100

PROJECT SCHEDULE:

A/E Selection	October 2019
Design Report	March 2020
SBC Approval	April 2020
Bid Opening	July 2020
Construction Start	September 2020
Project Closeout	May 2021

A/E QUALIFICATIONS: A well-qualified design firm for this project shall have experience designing and constructing similar fire response facilities.